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ABSTRACT

This journal issue explores Iowa's participation in the U.S. Civil War and primarily focuses on what happened to the men, women, and children who remained at home. A number of social, political, and economic changes are examined, including: (1) the increased responsibilities of women and children; (2) the growth of abolitionism; (3) the role of the Peace Democrats (copperheads); (4) debates about slavery and suffrage; and (5) economic and technological growth. Sharon Wood features women's domestic contributions to the war effort in "Changed Families," and excerpts of one couple's letters, written to each other during the Civil War, are presented, along with samples of newspaper editorials. Victoria Carlson chronicles the social reform efforts of one woman in "Annie Wittenmyer," and Chris Annicella describes a 16-year-old drummer boy's adventures in "Escape!" The arrest of a newspaper editor for criticizing President Lincoln's actions is highlighted. Pictures, maps, games, and activities are included. (JHP)

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Iowa History
for Young People
Volume 9, Number 2
November 1987

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The Goldfinch
EDPRESS

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Meet Wild Rosie, your official "Goldfinch Tour Guide" for a trip into Iowa's past

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J.J. Anderson, 14, from Davenport and Chris Jorandby, 13, of Moline, Illinois, took part in a recent Civil War Muster in East Davenport. Photograph by Jeff Cook.

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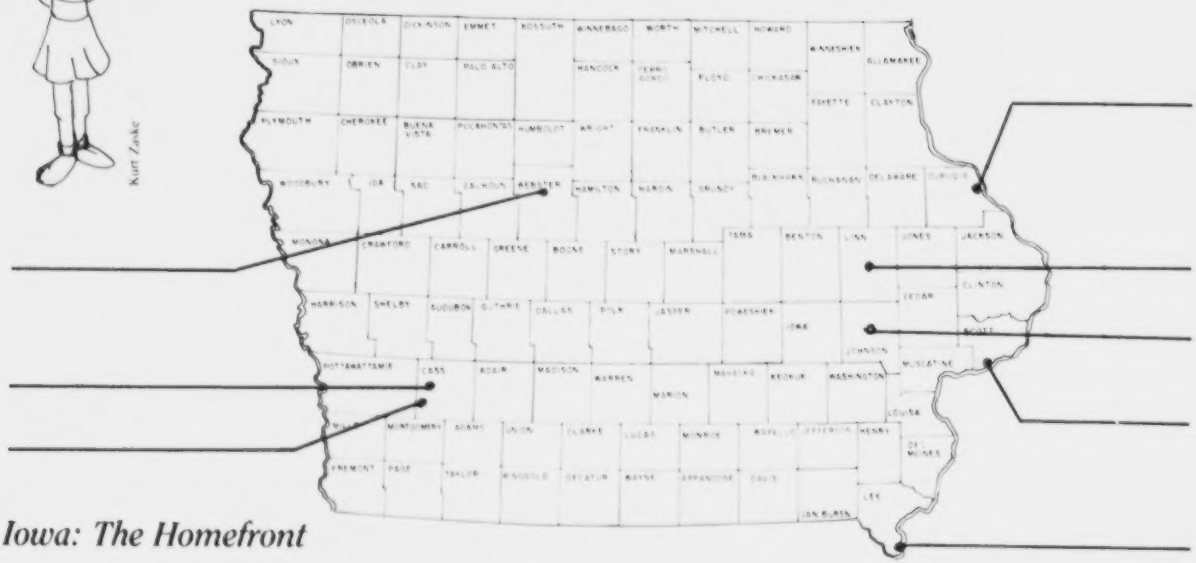
Wild Rosie's Map Page



Iowa: The Homefront

When you think of the Civil War, do you think of guns and battles? There is a lot more to the story of the war than fighting. In this issue of the *Goldfinch* we're going to explore what was going on in Iowa during the Civil War.

We've marked a few towns on the map that are mentioned in this issue of the *Goldfinch*. Read the clues below and write the name of each town on the blanks above.

Davenport: Annie Wittenmyer opened a home for orphans in this Scott County town.

Dubuque: Dennis Mahony was arrested for writing articles opposing the Civil War. He was editor of the Dubuque *Herald*.

Fort Dodge: A young boy enlisted as a drummer in the Iowa Infantry in 1862 and was captured by Confederate troops. He tried to escape to return to his Webster County home.

Griswold: Heather Shannon, a student at Griswold Community School, wrote about the Underground Railroad for this issue's History Makers.

Iowa City: The History Mystery photograph on the back cover is of a player from this university town in Johnson County.

Keokuk: During the Civil War, Annie Wittenmyer became a leader in the Soldiers' Aid Society in this southeastern Iowa town.

Lewis: Rev. George Hitchcock ran "the Lewis depot," part of the Underground Railroad, to help slaves enroute to Canada in this town near Griswold.

Marion: A woman from this Linn County town wrote letters to her husband while he fought for the Union during the Civil War.

Iowa & The Civil War

SMOKE TWIRLS from the campfire. Water for coffee begins to boil. In the background, you can hear camp songs: "Just Before the Battle, Mother" and "Tenting Tonight on the Old Camp Ground." The two kids on the cover of this issue of the *Goldfinch* are dressed up in Civil War era uniforms. J.J. Anderson, 14, from Davenport and Chris Jorandby of Moline, Illinois recently took part in the Village of East Davenport Civil War Muster. Every year men, women, and kids set up a Civil War camp, reenact battles, and cook food to **commemmorate** (remember) Iowa's participation in the Civil War.

A **Civil War** is a war between people from the same country. The United States Civil War, sometimes called the War Between the States (1861-1865), took more than one million **casualties** (people killed, wounded, or lost)—more than any other war. Iowans fought and died in many of the battles and campaigns.

This issue of the *Goldfinch* will look not at the battles of the war, but at what was happening in Iowa to the ordinary men, women, and children who remained at home.

Call to War in Iowa

When President Abraham Lincoln called for troops in 1861, Iowa Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood asked for one regiment of men. Two-thirds of Iowa men of military age, about 78,000, served during the four-year war.

As casualties increased, it became harder to fill those places. In 1863, the first **draft** (way of

Jeff Cook

The two boys on the cover pose with a horse at the East Davenport Civil War Muster. Horses, steamboats, and the new railroads were used for transportation during the war.

selecting men for military service) was held for men 20 to 45 years of age. Iowa drafted some 7,500 men in 1864. Not all men drafted went to war. Some 1,200 men paid for substitutes to take their places.

The Homefront

In this issue of the *Goldfinch*, you will read about life in Iowa during the Civil War. As men left for war, families changed. Women had to run businesses and farms. Young boys and children helped, too. Families pitched in to help make clothing, supplies, and send food to their loved ones. You'll also read some real letters written

between an Iowa woman and her husband who was away fighting in the South.

At home, many Iowans held differing views of the war. Although Iowa was considered a Union state during the Civil War, not every Iowan supported the war or President Lincoln. Most Iowans belonged to the new political party, the Republicans. Many **abolitionists** (people against slavery) were also Republicans.

The Democratic Party was divided into two opposing groups: the War Democrats and the Peace Democrats. War Democrats supported the war, although they differed with President Lincoln on issues such as trade and abolition. Peace Democrats believed that the war was a useless waste of blood and money. They supported peaceful solutions to end the conflict.

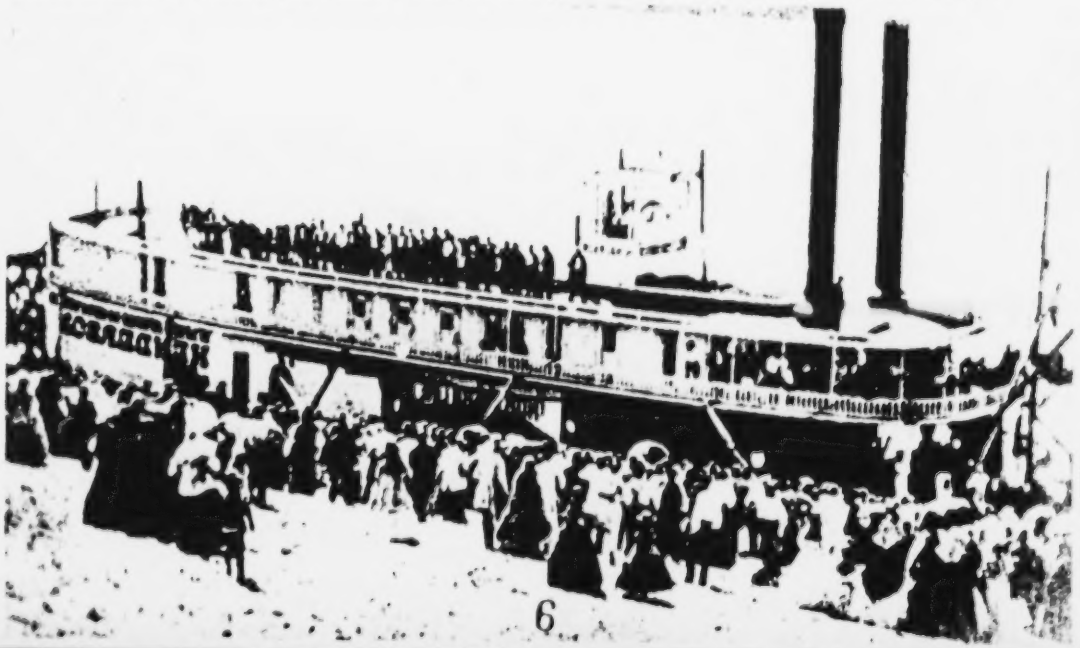
Many Peace Democrats also believed in a strict interpretation of the Constitution. Most of their harshest criticism was aimed at President Lincoln for denying constitutional rights to certain citizens during the war.

Some people thought the Peace Democrats were traitors. Some Peace Democrats were given the **derogatory** (unflattering, critical) label of **copperheads**. The name comes from the copperhead snake which has a poisonous bite, meaning that their opinions were sharply critical. You will read about an editor in Dubuque, Dennis Mahony, who was called a copperhead and who ended up in jail for his views against President Lincoln.

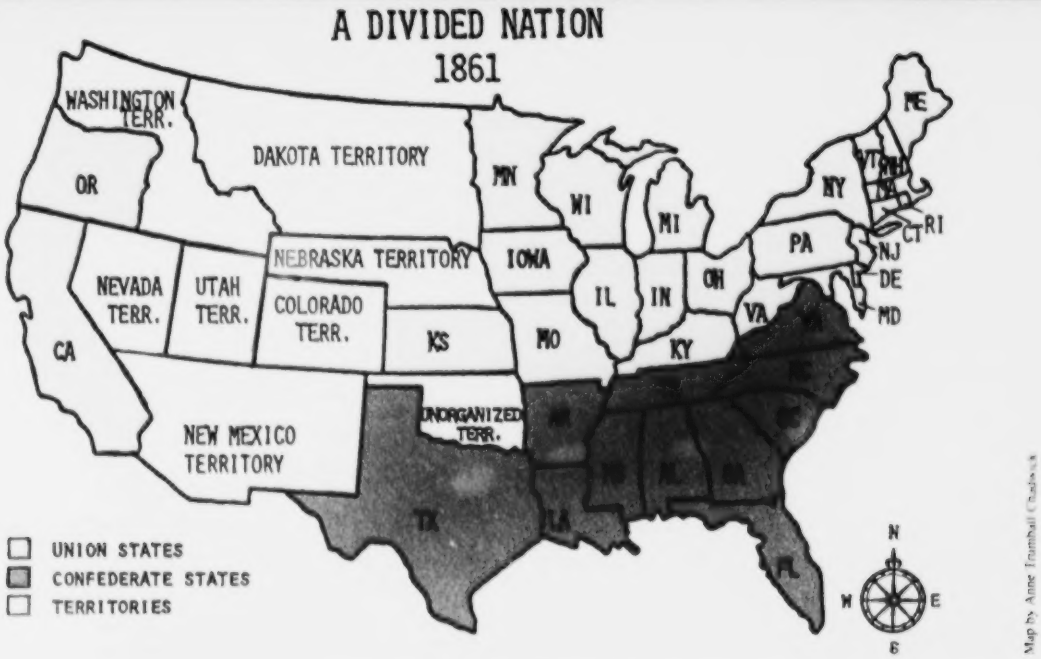
Other debates were held over slavery (*see box*). You will read about **suffrage** (the right to vote) for blacks and women after the Civil War.

During the Civil War, Iowa's economy boomed. High prices were paid for agricultural products and new businesses opened. Sheep

Shown in an early photograph, Bellevue soldiers leave for the war on a Mississippi River steamboat.



ISHS



became an important part of Iowa's economy. You can play a Civil War Game to see if you can help run a farm. You will also have a chance to crack a spy code to find out what new technological innovations were created during the Civil War era.

"The most important gift that the Civil War [gave] the state of Iowa," wrote one historian, "was a sense of identity, pride in being a hawkeye." This issue of the *Goldfinch* will show you how the war affected the lives of Iowans who stayed at home and supported the war effort in different ways. □

ACTIVITY

1. Look up and read "The Emancipation Proclamation" in an encyclopedia.
2. After reading the letter above and the Proclamation, write a short essay explaining how you think President Lincoln viewed slavery. Why did he issue the Proclamation? Explain.

On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It declared most slaves free in all states that joined the Confederacy. President Lincoln held a cautious attitude toward slavery. He wrote Horace Greeley, the **abolitionist** (person against slavery) editor of the *New York Tribune*:

> "*My paramount objective in this struggle* is *to save the Union and is* not *either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing* any *slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing* all *slaves I would do it; and* if *I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that.*"

Changed Families

by Sharon E. Wood

When Alvin Lacey joined the army, his wife Sarah bought nine cows. She was worried that Alvin's army pay would not be enough to support her and her three children. So she went into business. She milked the nine cows and made butter to sell. Butter was badly needed during the war years, so Sarah Lacey made enough money to provide for her family.

When the war was over, Alvin Lacey came home. He sold all but one of the cows. Sarah's butter business ended. She went back to doing the household and farm work she had done before the war.

Like many Iowa women, Sarah Lacey found that the war changed her life in surprising ways. She had new work and new responsibilities. All kinds of women—and children, too—learned to take the places of men who left.

Almost half the men in Iowa spent some time in the Union army. Many were farmers before the war. Some had worked as carpenters, or lawyers, or steamboat pilots. But they were also brothers, sons, husbands, and fathers. Most of them left behind families who loved and depended on them.

Men in the army were paid, but often the

This newspaper advertisement from the Prairie Farmer *shows how easy the new sulky hay-rake could be used by women farmers.*

The Prairie Farmer, May 27, 1865

Harper's Monthly, 1861

This 1861 illustration shows how many women contributed to the Civil War effort by making bullets.

money was not enough to support a family. Sometimes money sent home got lost in the mail. When these things happened, families had to find other ways to get by.

More Women Enter Teaching

When Martha Searle's husband went to war, she took a job as a teacher to support herself and her baby. Other women did the same thing. Teaching was a common job for women, but even more women were needed during the war years because so many men quit their teaching jobs to join the army. Some women even got to be school principals for the first time.

Just as women entered teaching, more women took over running farms. Most families before the war lived on farms. In those days, almost every member of the family had a job to do on the farm. Before the war, women and older girls often operated the dairy and took care of the chickens, gardens, and orchards. They also cooked and ran the household for both family members and hired help. Men and older boys worked in the fields and livestock barns and looked after the farm equipment. Younger girls and boys helped out where they were needed when they were not in school.

When the war broke out, many fathers, older sons, and hired hands left the farms to go to war. Often there were not enough men on the farms to do the work. When this happened, women and children learned to do the work people had thought only men should do.

Marjorie Ann Rogers and her husband farmed in Tama County. When Dr. Rogers left to serve as an army surgeon, Marjorie took over some of his tasks. When it was time to haul the harvest from the farm to market, Marjorie decided to do it herself.

She had never driven a team of horses pulling a

heavy wagon-full of produce before. Her neighbors doubted she could do it. They worried that the wagon might tip over, or that the horses would bolt and run away. But Marjorie knew the work had to be done, and there was no one else to do it. She got the wagon to market safely. And she proudly made the same trip again and again.

Driving a heavy market wagon was only one job a farm woman had to learn to do. Farm fields had to be plowed, cultivated, and harvested. These were all jobs young men usually did before the war. But with the young men gone, other family members took over. The crops were important not only to the farm family, but to the nation.

Some changes in farming during the Civil War made it easier for women and younger boys and girls to help out. New kinds of farming equipment made it possible to farm "sitting down." A plow or hay-rake called a **sulky** had a seat on it for the driver. Now the person plowing did not have to walk miles back and forth across the fields every day.

New kinds of horses were also brought into Iowa at this time. They were much, much bigger than the riding horses people use today. These horses were Shires and Clydesdales. They made using the new sulky plows and hay-rakes much easier and faster.

The new "sulkies" were easier to use than the old equipment. But driving the giant horses that pulled them still took courage and skill. On some farms, wives, daughters, and sons too young to go to war took over this task as well. One maker of sulky hay-rakes advertised his machine with a picture of a young lady at the seat. "My brother has gone to the war," she says.

SHSI

If I cannot fight, I can feed those who do.

The *Prairie Farmer*, a newspaper for farmers, praised families for taking up the work left by men in the army. The boys who stayed behind to plow and plant, it said, deserved as much credit as the older "boys in blue" fighting far away. The families at home were doing the work of men, it said. "The nation owes them its sincere gratitude."

When the war was over, most of the "boys in blue" came back. Like Alvin Lacey, they took over the tasks they had left behind. Most of the changes brought by the war did not last. But the wives, sons, and daughters who had kept farms, schools, and businesses in Iowa took pride in what they had done. □

How did the Civil War affect the average Iowa family? Letters are one of the best ways to see how people lived during this time. Harriet Jane Thompson and her husband Major William G. Thompson of Marion, Iowa, wrote letters to each other while Major Thompson served in the Twentieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. When he left in 1862, Jane traveled to Pennsylvania to visit his family.

Read the excerpts from their letters and answer the questions.

Marion, IA
August 13th, 1862

Dear William

*. . . I felt very bad and lowly the day you left. I tried to control my feelings but I could not and I hope you will pardon me. I wished tonight that you was at home. I wonder how many times I will wish that between now and Spring. I am proud to think I have a Husband that wants to fight for his Country. . . .

They thrashed 12 bushels of our wheat this afternoon and would have finished it tomorrow had it not rained. But I must close. I want you to tell me when you get sick. Will you? Write soon and often as you can. Good night.

Jane

**The symbol . . . is called an ellipsis. It shows where a word or words has been left out of the original letter.*

Benton Barracks, MO
Sept 12th 1862

Dear Jane

Our Camp is in the out skirts of the city about 3 1/2 miles from the River. Horse cars run here every five minutes, but I have felt no inclination for going as I am ready for bed every night as soon as work is over. I have still the command of the [regiment]. . . .

I would like to send you [a] pair of contrabands [slaves], but I am not going up Home now or I certainly would have one at least with me. . . . The little fellows will get off their hats & plead like good fellows with me to take them along. . . . But I do not need them, consequently, I can not take them. But when I get ready to go home I shall take a bright lad Home with me & educate him if I can, & see what we can make of them. . . .

Yours
Wm G Thompson

Butler, PA
September 13th, 1862

My Dear William

. . . Yesterday there was an order in the paper from the Governor for 50,000 more men to protect the state and the company expect to go today. There are a great many in that you know. There will be no one left hardly. . . .

It was a great sacrifice to me and to you no doubt for you to leave home and its pleasures to fight for your country and I have not regretted that you went although I spend a great many lonely hours. . . .
Jane Thompson

Butler, PA
September 19th, 1862

Dearest William,

. . . .They intend to send a box tomorrow to Harrisburg with lint and bandages for the wounded

1885

William and Jane Thompson posed together for this photograph before he enlisted in the Union Army.

soldiers that are to be brought in from this last battle at Gettysburg, which I suppose you will hear about before this reaches you. . . .
Jennie Thompson
P.S. Send me a kiss, will you?

Camp Gad Fly, MO
Oct 11th 1862

My Dear Wife

We marched all day through a continual rain. I think it never slacked a minute during the day & at Night we

Major William G. Thompson in 1862 at St. Louis after his enlistment

reached this place, making about 13 miles during the day. The roads were in an awful condition & our Teams did not get into Camp until to night. So our men were without Tents & had to sleep last night out of Doors in the rain. . . .

I can not complain of our eatings. We have plenty. Soft & hard bread, meat salt & fresh, Honey occasionally & Molasses all the time, also Coffee & Tea. Butter is verry scarce. . . .

Yours

Wm G Thompson

McCandless, PA
October 23rd 1862

My dearest William,

I received your kind letter of the 11th last night after I had sent one to the office. I was very gladd indeed to hear of your continued health but I do not know how you escape getting cold for you are in the rain so much. . . . Oh, my dear William how I do wish you were here tonight. . . . Write soon and often, and remember your,

Jennie

P.S. I forgot to tell you they have been drafting here. There were three or four drafted out of Unionville but I cannot spell their names. One is the wagonmaker and one is the blacksmith. Thee people here are afraid there will be another draft before the war will close.

Fayettesville, Arkansas
Dec 10th 1862

My Dear Wife

. . . We have had a battle [the Battle of Prairie Grove]. God Knows what you may have suffered on my [account] by the conflicting rumors you may have heard & not Knowing what had been my fate . . . At every step we took, our brave lads fell wounded or Killed. . . . The [bullets] were coming & going so fast & thick, and my whole attention was on the enemy who were not Twenty yards from us. . . .

But Just at sundown & the [very] last round they shot at us . . . I was hit. . . . The Ball struck me in the side of the Hip & came out of my groin, Just roughing the bone & hurting the leaders & nerves so that I can not have the free use of my leg for some time.
Wm G Thompson

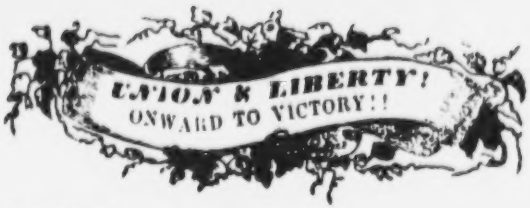
Marion, IA
December 16th, 1862

My dear William,

I have not received any letter yet from you since the battle . . . We cannot hear anything by telegraph for the government has the use of the wires now . . . Last Saturday I got a *Daily Davenport Gazette*. It was directed to Mrs. Major W.G. Thompson and was marked where it gave a full list of the wounded in that battle. . . . I hope to hear that your wound was slight and that you are recovering from it. Dear William, how I wish I could bear the pain for you . . .

From your wife,
Jane Thompson

Major Thompson finally came home to Marion in May of 1864 because of the after-effects of his injury at the Battle of Prairie Grove. There, 40 Iowans were wounded and nine lost their lives. □



Questions

1. How did Jane feel about her husband serving in the Civil War?
2. What were contrabands?
3. How did people at home contribute to the war effort?

Jane Parsons Thompson of Marion, Iowa

SHSI

Battle of the Newspapers

"Iowa fifth-graders should go to school year-round," writes Ed I. Tor in a recent newspaper article. "Year-round school would provide more time for learning."

Are Iowa fifth graders going to school all year? Is this make-believe statement based on facts or opinions? It is an opinion that might appear on an editorial page of a newspaper. The editorial page exists for the purpose of presenting opinions about news issues. News stories, however, are supposed to be unbiased and are based on facts.

During the Civil War, many news stories were written like editorials. Read the two articles below about the **Emancipation Proclamation** (proclamation by President Lincoln giving freedom to black slaves living in states in rebellion against the U.S.). They were published in Iowa newspapers during the war. List the examples of fact and opinion found in the two articles in the columns on the next page.

President's Proclamation

"[President Lincoln] has issued his Proclamation declaring the abolishment of Slavery in all states that do not return to [the Union] before the first day January 1863. . . . There can be but one opinion on this subject, as far as its effect upon the rebels is concerned. . . . Not a southern state will relax its [warlike] operations on account of the Proclamation. If it makes any change at all, it will stimulate them to greater exertions in their wicked cause, provided they are capable of doing more than they have already done. As to the practical working of this scheme we regard it as of no particular importance. . . . The slaves of rebels can be reached no faster than the lines of the Federal army are advanced into the rebel territory. Proclamations cannot travel a step faster, in this matter than the advance guard of our army, and the same effect would be produced. . . . Therefore, it really amounts to nothing. . . . What is done must be done by our army. . . ."

—Davenport *Daily Democrat and News*, September 24, 1862

Glad Tidings!

"Language fails us. We are utterly unable to give voice to the joy we feel at President Lincoln's Proclamation. It is one of those great events that happen but once in a thousand years and will be hailed with joy by all the friends of freedom and civilization throughout the world. It will give renewed strength and courage to our volunteers in the field. . . . It will carry terror into the hearts of all rebels and fill the land of "Dixie" with sorrow and apprehension. . . . Two years hard fighting, with the reverses of the last sixty days, have shown that to save the Union and slavery together is beyond our present abilities and resources. Now the effort to save the Union without Slavery is to be made. We shall see how it will work. . . . It cannot make matters worse. *But it will not fail.* . . . [The Emancipation Proclamation] comes at a time when it seems as though bloody treason would triumph over us and blot out our nationality. It comes to turn the tide of battle. Let all loyal people thank God and take courage."

—Burlington *Hawk-Eye*, September 24, 1862

DAILY DEMOCRAT AND NEWS.

RICHARDSON WEST & CO. THE GREATEST GOOD TO THE GREATEST NUMBER.

VOLUME 7. DAVENPORT, IOWA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 24, 1862. NUMBER 201.

Headline:		Headline:	
FACT	OPINION	FACT	OPINION

BURLINGTON DAILY HAWK-EYE

AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN JOURNAL.

BY O. DUNHAM. WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24 1862 ELEVENTH YEAR

Civil War Game

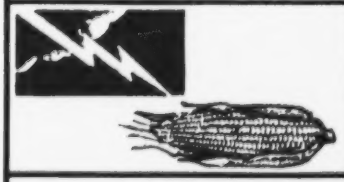
How to play:
Before you start, you need a coin and a marker for each player
The first player flips the coin. If you flip heads, move two spaces.
across the board following the instructions on the spaces. The fir

START

by Anne Trumball Chadwick

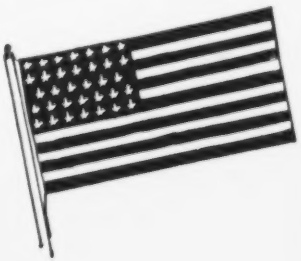
Your father volunteers for the Union army. You'll have to help your mother and brother run the farm. Move ahead one space.

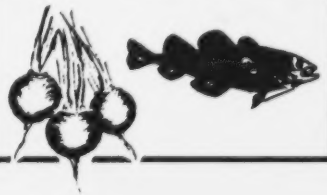
Your mother joins the ladies aid society and makes uniforms for the soldiers. You watch your brother when she's gone. Move ahead one space.



A hail storm hurts the buckwheat and corn crops. Lose 1 turn.

With other kids, you collect cod fish, mustard, and radishes to send to the troops. Move ahead 2 spaces.





You write yo
a long letter
him about li
Move ahead

Frost ruins much of the corn crop. Move back 2 spaces.

You help your mother can peaches and make flannel shirts to send to your father. Move ahead 1 space.

You read in the newspaper that a few soldiers from your town have come down with typhoid fever. Go back 1 space.

. Flip the coin to see who will go first.
If you flip tails, move one space. Move
st player who reaches the finish wins.

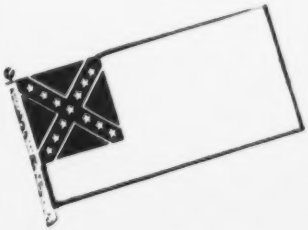
FINISH

ur father
nd tell
e at home.
1 space.

Without any outside help your family harvests the remaining crops. Take another turn.

You go to school when your father returns. Harvey is home safely, too. Your father is proud of the way you helped your mother run the farm while he was away.

Your mother hurts her back during the harvesting. Go back 1 space.



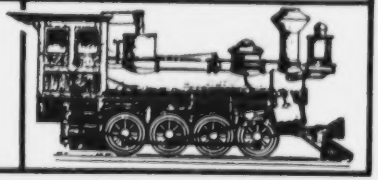
With the harvest money, your mother buys some material and makes you a new outfit for school. Move ahead 1 space.

In 1864, your cousin Harvey is drafted! Take another turn.

You meet a Union soldier on the train who says your father is on his way home! Move ahead 1 space.

Someone steals one of your cows. Go back 1 space.

You write Harvey a long letter. Move ahead 1 space.



Annie Wittenmyer

Annie Turner Wittenmyer

by Victoria Carlson

The Civil War called women as well as men to active roles of service. Iowa women faced many challenges in their support of the war effort. Many women had to manage households without their husbands. Groups of women organized to raise money and to collect food and medical supplies for the army. Others served as army nurses, cooks, and laundry attendants. One Iowa woman covered a wide range of responsibilities during the Civil War years. Her name was Annie Turner Wittenmyer.

Born in Ohio in 1827, Wittenmyer married at the age of twenty. In 1850 she and her husband moved to Keokuk, Iowa. Moving to what was then frontier gave Wittenmyer reason to become involved in making her new community a better place to live. Wittenmyer quickly devoted herself to the children of Keokuk.

There were no public schools in Keokuk in 1850. Wittenmyer, who had the advantages of both education and wealth, started a school for the town's poor children. She bought books for the students. She provided the children with clean clothes. Soon she moved the school from her home to a warehouse big enough for 200 students.

A Leader in the War Effort

Being a river town, Keokuk was filled with soldiers soon after the Civil War began in 1861. Wittenmyer visited troops in her area and found they needed medical supplies. She soon became a leader in the Soldiers' Aid Society of Keokuk. Her activities motivated women from other towns in Iowa to start collecting supplies for the troops. Iowa women also sponsored events such as concerts and fairs to raise money for the army.

Wittenmyer made many trips to army camps and military hospitals during 1861. She called attention to the soldiers' needs for personal items

such as socks and bedding, as well as for more nutritious food.

Wittenmyer also cared for wounded soldiers directly, sometimes working very close to the gunfire. She saw terrible conditions first-hand and wrote, "It was an inside view of the hospitals that made me hate war as I have never known how to hate it before."

In 1862 the Iowa General Assembly gave Wittenmyer the official job of the first State Sanitary Agent. This important position involved the distribution of large amounts of food and supplies to the soldiers. Wittenmyer had to solve many different kinds of practical problems, including shortages and bad weather. She was once surprised to learn that 100 bushels of potatoes did not go far in feeding hungry soldiers. At times, she used her own money to buy supplies.

A Home for Orphans

Wittenmyer knew that soldiers worried about the families they left at home. She also realized that many children became orphans when their fathers were killed in battle.

In 1863 she began to call attention to the need for an orphans' home. Wittenmyer used her writing talents to gain many people's sympathy for the children who were left homeless by the war. Once again she motivated people to organize money making events. This project was a great success. An orphans' home was first established near Keokuk in 1864 to care for 97 children. Since there were many other orphaned children in the state, Wittenmyer asked the government for more money. In 1865 a home for 150 children was

This photograph shows the south side of the Annie Wittenmyer Soldiers' Orphans' Home in 1869. What are the children doing in the photograph?

ISHS

Katie Hemming and Mary Clark were orphans who lived at the Soldiers' Orphans' Home in 1870. What are they wearing?

ISHS

20

SHSI

A military company of boys 10 to 14 years of age line up in front of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home about 30 years after the Civil War.

opened in Davenport. It was eventually called the "Annie Wittenmyer Home."

Annie Wittenmyer continued to take on many other projects throughout her lifetime. Before the Civil War ended in 1865, she had proposed a way to improve the diets of soldiers in army hospitals. She believed that the soldiers' meals of beans, bacon, **hardtack** (a hard cracker), and coffee were too limited, and she planned menus with more variety.

Fannie Blood was an orphan who lived at the Soldiers' Orphans' Home in 1869.

SHSI

Wittenmyer retired from her government job in 1864. She began working for **temperance** (a movement to stop people from drinking alcoholic beverages). In 1874, she became the first president of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union. Later she wrote articles and edited a magazine. She also went to Washington, D.C. in the 1890's to persuade government officials to give former army nurses a pension. Wittenmyer died in 1900 at the age of seventy-three.

Annie Wittenmyer and many other women who were active in the war effort continued to work for social reform after the Civil War was over. Whatever their cause and whatever their role, they were ready to help establish peace. □

Primary source for this article: "Annie Turner Wittenmyer: Reformer," by Glenda Riley, Iowa Woman, *September, 1986.*

Escape!

by Chris Annicella

George A. Tod, 16, from Fort Dodge, Iowa, enlisted in Company I of the 32nd Iowa Infantry in 1862. Too young to be a regular soldier, George was admitted to the regiment as a drummer boy.

George drummed along with the regiment until one February day in Mississippi in 1864. He marched ahead of the company and stopped to rest his heavy load.

Suddenly, three Confederate soldiers, who were hiding in the bushes, pointed their guns at George. "Surrender, . . . Come in here quick, you . . . little Yankee." George saw no escape and surrendered. The Confederates searched George and took everything but an old blanket and a tin oyster can.

George was taken with other captured prisoners to the Cahawba prison in Alabama. There, they had to sleep on the floor without blankets. A day's **rations** (a fixed portion given to military persons or civilians in times of scarcity) consisted of "one quart of corn meal and sometimes a piece of small meat." To prevent escape attempts, the prisoners were shackled together with bars of iron fastened to their wrists and ankles.

A few months later, George and some other prisoners were taken from the prison and sent to the Andersonville prison in Georgia.

No Hope of Surviving

George trembled with fear. He heard that a man confined at Andersonville had almost no hope of surviving. The prison offered no shelter. The prisoners were exposed to the harsh sun rays and the damp, cold rain. Death from diseases caused by poor diet was quite common.

Illustration by Brenda Robinson

On April 27th, 1864, George arrived at Andersonville. He immediately found "a stump which he made his home for many long, weary weeks." He was given his daily rations consisting of nothing but "a little corn meal ground with the cob, and a small raw piece of meat." Luckily, he

©B.Robinson

had kept that old tin oyster can. He cooked his meals in the can and used the stump for fuel.

George soon went into business using his tin oyster can to cook meals for the other prisoners and selling fuel from his stump.

A Strange, Wild Animal

One July day, two wagons loaded with wood arrived at the prison. George spied his chance to escape. Quietly, he crawled into one of the wagons. The wagon passed through the gate and the watchman was paying no attention to the wagon or to George. George had escaped from Andersonville!

On his first days of the journey, George discovered some delicious peaches and apples to eat—a wonderful treat compared to prison rations.

A few weeks later, George came upon a Confederate soldier who was home on **furlough** (a leave of absence from duty). The soldier saw by the blue uniform George wore that he was a Yankee. Although the soldier gave George shelter for the night and food to eat, he turned George over to the jailor the next morning. George was recaptured.

The jailor then took George to the small town of Lumpkinville. Everyone on the road wished to glimpse the "little Yankee" as if George were a strange, wild animal. At every stop the townspeople stared at George. The ladies were extremely curious to see just what a Yankee soldier looked like. They could hardly believe that the harmless looking fellow was a real live Yankee. At another stop, a woman and two girls, taking pity upon George's tattered appearance, gave him a coat, pair of pants, and some peaches.

George soon discovered where the jailor was taking him. Back to the terrible Andersonville prison! On September 9th, 1864 George was among some prisoners being sent to Savannah, Georgia. When they arrived they were surrounded by guards who tried to prevent the prisoners from escaping. George, still dressed in his civilian clothes, quickly slipped between guards and walked away from the crowd unnoticed.

For three months George found odd jobs in the South. He worked at a stable and later at a warehouse where he sold grain and other goods. Because of the war, the prices for the items were quite expensive: flour, $150.00 a sack, four turnips for one dollar, and good apples a dollar each!

On December 13th, 1864, George heard a rumor that some Union prisoners were going to be **exchanged** (traded for Confederate prisoners captured by the Union Army). He was determined to get in with them and finally go home. When the prisoners were about to be exchanged George slipped past the guards and hid with the prisoners. He was passed onto a Confederate boat and then transported to a Union ship.

After 11 long months since his capture, "the little Yankee" safely returned home. George soon rejoined his regiment to complete his term of enlistment as a drummer boy. □

(This article was adapted from newspaper accounts from January, 1865 issues of the Fort Dodge North West *as published in the* Iowa Journal of History, *October, 1951.)*

THE DUBUQUE HERALD.

VOL. TUESDAY MORNING. NOVEMBER 5, 1861. XI

You Debate: The Case of Dennis Mahony

SHSI

Editor Dennis Mahony—Did he belong in jail? You decide!

IN THE early morning hours of August 14, 1862, newspaper editor Dennis Mahony awoke to the sound of knocking at his door. The man at the door said he had urgent business with Mahony and stepped inside. Outside a group of soldiers appeared. Mahony was a strong critic of President Abraham Lincoln, but he had not broken the law. When U.S. Marshal Herbet Hoxie arrested Mahony, he went along peacefully.

Under guard, he was taken to Davenport, put on a steamship, and shipped to Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. There he was held without criminal charge or trial for three months.

Why was Dennis Mahony arrested as a traitor?

Statesman and Editor

Dennis Mahony was born in Ireland. His parents moved to the U.S. when he was nine years old. He moved to Dubuque when he was a young man. He taught school, and served as a postmaster and as a Democrat in the state legislature. He was also the outspoken editor of local newspaper, the *Dubuque Herald*.

Mahony was arrested because of what he wrote in his paper. He believed in the right of Americans

to protest actions of their government. Mahony also was opposed to slavery, but he believed that the Southern states had the right to decide for *themselves what to do about it.*

At the beginning of the Civil War, Mahony showed his loyalty to the Union. He wrote about how many Northerners volunteered for the Army. As the War continued, Mahony began to criticize the actions of President Lincoln. In his newspaper, Mahony said that Lincoln had taken away some of the basic rights of U.S. citizens. He wrote that the President was:

- fighting a war which had not been declared by Congress.
- blocking the Southern ports and stopping trade between North and South.
- declaring persons sailing under the "rebel" flag to be pirates.
- spending tax money without approval of Congress.

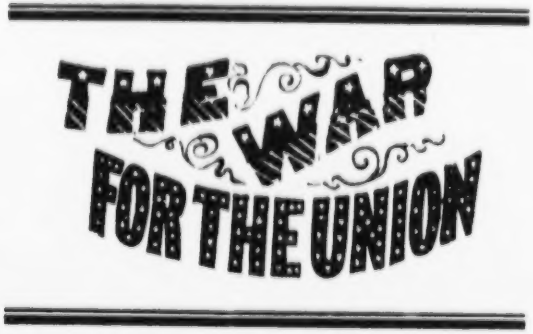
Mahony's criticism of Lincoln and the government made many people in Iowa angry. Some thought Mahony was unpatriotic. Others were afraid that he might help the Democratic party win the coming election. Mahony's editorials against President Lincoln were brought to the attention of Edwin Stanton, President Lincoln's secretary of war.

Shortly after the beginning of the war, Stanton had issued an order giving marshals the power to "arrest and imprison any person or persons who may be engaged by act, speech or writing . . . (or) any other disloyal practice against the United States."

This order was issued during the war because a state of emergency existed. Written or spoken criticism of the war was looked down upon by the government.

When Mahony was arrested, there was no written warrant for his arrest. There was never a trial. The Constitution guarantees that U.S. citizens will not be imprisoned without being told why they are arrested and will be given trials. Mahony received neither.

Many people in Iowa agreed with Mahony's statements about the South and objected to his arrest. They tried to help free Mahony by writing letters to Iowa Governor Samuel Kirkwood and the Secretary of War. He was released after three months in prison only after signing a paper swearing loyalty to the United States. Also, he promised not to sue anyone for illegal arrest or imprisonment. □



YOU DEBATE!

Do you think the U.S. government was justified for putting Dennis Mahony in jail? Why or why not? Explain your reasons.

—Adapted from Iowa Heritage in the American Revolution *by Margaret Bonney with additional research by Paul Stolt.*

Citizenship: Suffrage

Imagine you are living in Iowa during Civil War times. If you are a woman, you cannot vote or hold office. You are denied **suffrage** (the right to vote). The same is true if you are a black man or woman. When Iowa became a state in 1846, the constitution excluded women and black residents from voting, and barred them from holding legislative office, and serving in the state militia.

If you are a black child you might not be able to go to public schools. Many towns have separate schools for black children. However, some towns allowed black and Euroamerican children to attend the same schools.

You might even be a slave. While most slaves lived in the South, some were also kept in Iowa. Slaves could be whipped for breaking rules, sold at auctions, denied the opportunity to read, write or meet except for church.

In 1857, a new constitution was created. Abolitionists wanted to make a Bill of Rights that declared "all men are, by nature, free and equal." Opponents of black suffrage said that this statement was too abstract and that if non-whites were declared equal, it would "invite the Negro and the Indian to our state."

The popular vote on giving blacks suffrage received less than 8,500 votes. More than 70,000 Iowans opposed black suffrage in the 1857 vote.

Before the Civil War, abolitionists helped runaway slaves. Many towns in southern Iowa provided shelter for fugitive slaves who wanted freedom. These shelters were part of the **Underground Railroad** (see page 30 for more on the Underground Railroad).

When the Civil War broke out, the disagreement over slavery and states was renewed. When blacks were freed by the 13th and 14th amendments after the war, their freedom did not bring the rights of citizenship.

In 1868, Iowa passed a black suffrage provision. The word "white" was struck from the constitution as a requirement for suffrage. Iowa became one of only two states giving blacks suffrage by a vote by the people.

Iowa women did not receive the vote until 1920 when the 19th amendment (which forbids discrimination in voting on the basis of sex) to the Constitution was ratified.

In 1870, the fifteenth amendment to the United States Constitution declared that the right of citizens to vote could not be denied because of "race, color or previous condition of servitude."

After the Civil War, the population of blacks increased from 1,069 to 5,762. Many came to work on the railroads. The number of blacks did not increase dramatically, though. Up until 1970, the percentage of black residents in Iowa has been less than one percent of Iowa's population.

Woman Suffrage

Blacks were not the only people fighting for suffrage during the Civil War. Women were also denied the right to vote. "If women are citizens," wrote "Kate" in a letter to the Des Moines

Illustration By Cynthia Moore

Register, "and if they, by their acts of devotion to the cause of the Union, proved their loyalty, then according to the Republican platform, they should have a right to an equal voice in making the laws."

In 1866, woman suffrage supporters in Iowa asked that the word "male" be deleted from the qualifications for voting. In 1872, a constitutional amendment removing the word "male" from voting qualifications was refused. From 1870 to 1918 the woman suffrage amendment was introduced in the General Assembly.

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, suffragist Susan B. Anthony read a women's Declaration of Rights 100 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed. "We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all the civil and political rights that belong to citizens of the United States, be guaranteed to us and our daughters forever." □

ACTIVITY

1. Look up the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Write a short paragraph describing what each amendment says.
2. What rights of citizenship are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution? By the Iowa Constitution? Explain in your own words.
3. Write a short biography of one of these Iowa women who supported women suffrage: Amelia Bloomer, Arabella Mansfield, Annie N. Savery, Carrie Chapman Catt.

Disk Detective

by Jean E. Wulf

Wild Rosie is visiting her great grandmother. In the attic, she finds an old trunk containing a faded piece of cloth.

To find out what this mysterious item is, she later visits her friend Dr. Arc E. Ology.

"It seems to be from the Civil War," says Dr. Ology as he studies the cloth. "I believe it was used by the Union Army. Items like this changed during the war, so I'm not sure what exact date it was made.

Can you help unravel this mystery? Load BASIC on an IBM Personal Computer or an Apple IIe or IIc (with an 80-character screen) and enter this program.

(NOTE: Type in everything in **bold** print. When you see a number before an " and a letter, you hit the letter that many times. For example, 5 **"Y"** means you input "YYYYY" and return. Hit the space bar only when you see [sp]. Hit " only at the beginning and end of lines as shown below.)

```
10 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2
[sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] 44 M"
20 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z" [sp] TAB (27) [sp] "44 M"
30 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2
[sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] 44 I"
40 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z" [sp] TAB (27) [sp] "44 I"
50 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2
[sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 4 [sp] 44 M"
60 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z" [sp] TAB (27) [sp] "44 M"
70 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2
[sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] 44 I"
80 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z" [sp] TAB (27) [sp] "44 I"
90 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2
[sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] * 2 [sp] 44 M"
100 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z" [sp] TAB (27) [sp] 44 M"
110 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z [sp] 66 I"
120 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z [sp] 66 M"
130 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z [sp] 66 I"
140 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z [sp] 66 M"
150 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z [sp] 66 I"
160 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z [sp] 66 M"
170 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z [sp] 66 I"
180 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z [sp] 66 M"
190 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z"
200 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z"
210 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z"
220 PRINT [sp] " 3 Z"

You and Dr. Arc E. Ology discover a _____.
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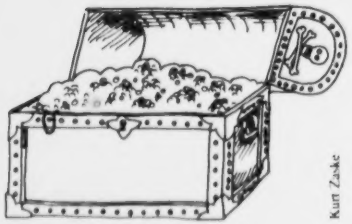
Treasure Chest



Kurt Zaske

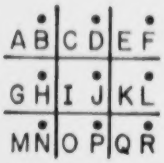
Crack The Code!

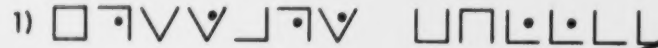
During the Civil War, daring women and men served as spies for the Union and Confederate forces. Often they scouted the location of enemy troops. Many spies had to send messages to their headquarters in code in case the messages fell into enemy hands.

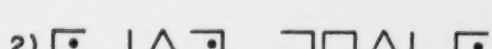
To test your spy decoding skills, look at the key below. Each symbol refers to a letter of the alphabet. For example, stands for spy.

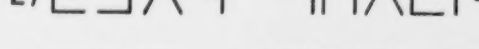
Below is a list of new inventions from the Civil War era. Can you figure out what they are? Write your answers on a separate piece of paper. (*Answers on page 31.*)

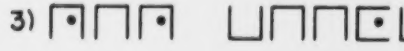
Key:

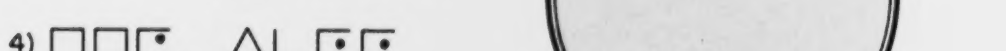


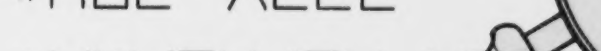
1) 

2) 

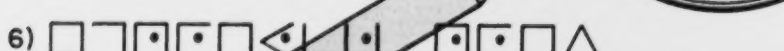
3) 

4) 

5) 

6) 

7)

8) 

Art by Kay Chambers

History Makers

Kurt Zaske

BE A HISTORY MAKER! The *Goldfinch* wants to know what you've discovered about Iowa's past. Has your class worked on special projects about Iowa history? Are you helping to save something old? Have you found an old letter, diary, photograph, or arrowhead that tells something about the past?

In our next issue we'll cover Jessie Field Shambaugh, a founder of 4-H. Are you involved with 4-H? Write us a letter and tell us about your experiences and projects with 4-H.

Send your letters, stories, poems, or artwork to: History Makers, The *Goldfinch*, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. See your work published!

---

by Heather Shannon
Griswold (IA)
Community School

Little is known about the underground railroads. People still ask questions about why slavery started in the first place and how the underground railroad came to be.

There were many people who didn't believe in slavery and who spoke out against it. Some did even more than that. Some risked their own lives. One of the most famous people fighting slavery was George Beckwith Hitchcock. He was born January 9, 1812 in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

In 1830 or 1831, George left home and went to Ypsilanti in Michigan Territory, where he took up farming. In late 1832, he gave up farming and studied ministry until 1833. Then he may have spent a year at Western Reserve College in Ohio.

In 1853, George took up 430 acres of land near the town of Lewis in western Iowa. There in 1854 he built a large home that served as "the house by the side of the road" to all that would come that way. Indians, blacks, or whites were welcome. This home also became known as "The Lewis Depot" of the underground railroad that ran from the deep south to the Queen's Land as Canada was called. George was a conductor to the slaves enroute.

The Rev. Hitchcock's house served as a social center for early travelers, trappers, and residents of the Cass County settlement. He also made his home available to Union troops and quartered the famous abolitionist John Brown.

Hitchcock had so many travelers come through that he also provided for travelers looking for runaway slaves. While he entertained his guests upstairs, the slaves below were hiding in a basement.

The basement had a secret room located behind a large cupboard. The slaves were sheltered there usually for two or three days. Then, they were either transported to a stop called Station Quaker Divide, near Avoca, Iowa or east to the Mississippi River. They were transported from depot to depot by false-bottom wagons, on foot, or disguised.

Signals were used in the underground railroad for different reasons. They were used to show danger, caution, and safety. They did this by putting lights on hitching posts, candles in the windows, or a red light, where it could be clearly seen. These signals were used to tell the slaves that it was safe at the depot. If the depot had no signals it was considered unsafe. Sometimes when traveling north, slaves followed things such as the North Star or the moss that grows on the north sides of the trees for direction.

George left Lewis about 1865 and served in other nearby towns, before going to Missouri where he set up a church with many blacks. He was in Eddyville, Iowa serving the church in 1874 where he became a circuit rider preacher. He died in Baxter Springs, Kansas.

There are other major and minor depots in the underground railroad. Tabor, Earlham, Des Moines, and Grinnell were a few of them. Besides Tabor and Grinnell, the best-known stations were in Quaker communities such as Salem, Low Moor, and Springdale.

We still do not know how many slaves were freed, and many unknown abolitionists helped to free them. Many depots are still being found and restored. □

Pass It On

Community Study

Are there any monuments, memorials, pictures, or old newspapers from Civil War times available in your area? Find out how your community was involved in the Civil War. What was going on in the community at that time? You might want to check a county history at the library.

Interpret a Photograph

Look at the photograph on the cover of this issue of the *Goldfinch*. What do you think the kids are doing? Feeling? Write a short skit based on the photograph.

Read More About It

Celebrate Children's Book Week (November 16-22) by reading more about the Civil War. Here are some suggested books:

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt (1964). Jethro Creighton is left on an Illinois farm while his brothers go off to fight in the Civil War—one as a Union soldier, one as a confederate.

Bonnet Brigades by Mary Elizabeth Massey (1966). A non-fiction history of women from the North and South during the Civil War.

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane (1983). First published in 1891, this is a classic story of a young Civil War Soldier.

Frontierswomen, The Iowa Experience by Glenda Riley (1983). Read more about Iowa women during the Civil War.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (1868-9). The classic book about one family during the Civil War.

Annie Wittenmyer

Research one aspect of Annie Turner Wittenmyer's life, such as her work with the Soldiers' Aid Society, orphans' home, or reform efforts. Write an essay or give an oral report on why you think her work was important.

Goldfinch Oldfinches

Read more about this time in Iowa history in earlier *Goldfinch* issues: "Working Women," "Railroads," and "Going to School in Iowa."

Tis' the Season

Hanukkah and Christmas are great times to send gifts to other people. Why not give a subscription to the *Goldfinch?* The *Goldfinch* is still only $5 for a year's subscription. Send a check or money order to the State Historical Society of Iowa, THE GOLDFINCH, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. Be sure and tell us it's a gift!

Answers

Page 13: (1) sad, lonely because he was gone, proud because he was helping the Union cause; (2) slaves; (3) donations, bandages, food, clothing, letters, helped to run farms.
Page 28: Union flag
Page 29: (1) instant coffee; (2) lawn mower; (3) pop cooler; (4) oil well; (5) standard clothing sizes; (6) improved plow; (7) passenger elevator; (8) wooden-soled shoe.
Back Cover: baseball, The University of Iowa

History Mystery

CLUES:

1. This sport was popular among the soldiers during the Civil War.
2. President Lincoln had a favorite team.
3. Soldiers brought the game home with them after the war.
4. It was then played in many towns and on many college campuses.
5. At first, the game was played without gloves—only with bats and balls.

What is this sport? Where do you think this player is from?